SC/ST Judges in Courts

120. SHRI RAOOF VALI-ULLAH : *Will* the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the Supreme Court and in the various High Courts in the country as on the 31st October, 1985;

(b) the reasons for vacancies remaining unfilled ;

(c) the steps taken by Government towards filling up these vacancies:

(d) the number of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes ;

(e) whether there is any proposal before Government to ensure adequate representation to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in the appointment of Judges ;

(f) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes considered for appointment as judges in Supreme Court/ High Courts.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 31-10-1985, there were 3 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India, and 62 vacancies of Judges in various High Courts in the country.

(b) and (c) The matter regarding filling up the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts engaging the attention of the Government in consultation with the constitutional authorities concerned.

(d) There was 1 Judge belonging to Scheduled Caste and none beloning to Scheduled Tribe in the Supreme Court of India as on 31-10-1985. According to the information received from the Registries of the High Courts, there were 7 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and 1 belonging to Scheduled Tribes in various High Courts as on 1-4-85.

(e) Appointments of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court are made in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution which do not provide for reservation for any class of persons. Government have, however, addressed the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts impressing upon them that it should be possible to give the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections better representation on the High Courts.

(f) Information about caste or community is not asked for at the time of receiving proposals for making appointments of Judges, and so it is not possible to indicate the number of such persons considered.

Establishment of Motor Industry in Gujarat

121. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reported news item which appeared in 'Jai Hindi' dated the 29th October, 1985 published from Ahmedabad under the headings "Possibility of Establishment of a Motor Industry in Gujarat" and "Discussions with Mehta Group for the establishment of the same at the cost of 180 crores of Rupees".

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps Central Government have taken to clear the said projects at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Government have seen the news item.